

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:**

The antenna coil 18 which is designated a vertical middle antenna has three coil portions, an upper, a lower and a middle coil portion (18a, 18b, 18c), each of which is wound around a vertical axis to provide ~~vertical~~ a vertical magnetic field with the magnetic fields (arrows 44, 46) of the upper and lower portions 18a and 18b being in the same direction and the magnetic field (arrow 48) of the middle portion 18c being phase shifted 180°.

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:**

As seen from Figs. 2A and 2B, the turns 54 of ~~the~~ each of the coils 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22 have unequal spacing to provide a homogenous reading field. More specifically, the distance between the turns 54 increase when approaching the axis 56 of the coil. If the spacing were equal then the magnetic field would increase from outside to inside resulting in a non-homogenous magnetic field.

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:**

When a plurality of transponders are capable of being simultaneously present in an interrogation space, measures must be taken to prevent interference between the signals from the transponders. To this end, the reader 64 provides control logic data logic and software providing an “anti-collision” protocol.